

LATEST UPDATE – APRIL 8, 2022

In an effort to keep our community partners connected, we are providing you with regular COVID-19 updates.

Second booster campaign

Immunize BC is rolling out a [second booster vaccine program](#) for seniors over the age of 70, Indigenous people over the age of 55, and residents of long-term care and assisted living facilities.

The second booster is now recommended in Canada for seniors who are at risk of severe illness, and should be administered approximately six months after receiving a first booster dose, or three months after recovering from a COVID-19 infection, whichever is longer.

This recommendation is based on preliminary data that indicates a second booster dose provides additional protection. The data also indicates the second booster is well tolerated and there are no new safety concerns.

You are encouraged to register yourself and eligible family members for booster doses at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/register>, or call 1-833-838-2323. For general information about COVID-19 vaccination, please visit the [B.C. Centre for Disease Control website](#).

People who are clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) continue to be prioritized for their COVID-19 vaccinations. Those who have received their full three-dose primary series are eligible for their first booster dose about six months after their previous dose.

Additional COVID-19 restrictions eased

The easing of restrictions is based on ongoing and careful review of data by the Provincial Health Officer and the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC). People will adjust to these changes at their own pace, and it is important to be respectful of other people's comfort levels.

As of today, the following [changes](#) are in place:

- Showing the BC Vaccine Card proof of vaccination to access events, services and businesses will no longer be required.
 - Individual businesses and organizations can choose to continue requiring the BC Vaccine Card on their premises.
- The remainder of the Workplace Safety Order will expire, which means that businesses are transitioning back to communicable disease plans to reduce risk of all communicable disease.
- The requirement for students residing in residence to be fully vaccinated under the Post-secondary Institution Housing COVID-19 Preventative Measures Order will be repealed.

Updated COVID-19 treatment eligibility

There is now additional guidance on the prescribing of COVID-19 therapies, sotrovimab and Paxlovid, to support delivery of care to eligible patients. Thanks to an increase in supply and operational capacity, as of Mar. 23, all patients at risk for disease progression to hospitalization can now be offered treatment. To be eligible for treatment, patients must first test positive for COVID-19.

Provincial testing eligibility at public test sites has been updated accordingly to ensure those who are eligible for treatment are also eligible for testing if they develop COVID-19 symptoms. Updated eligibility includes people who are immunocompromised or clinically extremely vulnerable, some unvaccinated or partially vaccinated people, and others who may be at risk of serious illness from COVID-19.

Find out more here: bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/treatments.

Rapid test access expanded

B.C. has also increased the supply of rapid tests, helping people monitor and manage mild COVID-19 symptoms at home. Currently, rapid antigen tests, in kits of five tests, are available to people aged 18 years and older through [community pharmacies](#). As of Monday, April 11, 2022, citizens can pick up rapid tests without needing to show their B.C. personal health number.

COVID-19 positive test result reporting changes

Self-reporting of COVID-19 test results through the online COVID Positive Test Result Reporting Form is no longer required.

If you have recently tested positive for COVID-19, visit the [COVID-19 Treatments](#) webpage to see if you may benefit from COVID-19 treatment. Please visit the [If you have COVID-19 webpage](#) for information on what to do if you have COVID-19 and how to manage your symptoms.

You can also call 8-1-1 anytime to talk to a nurse at HealthLinkBC. This service is available in 130 languages. If your symptoms worsen, or if you do not improve after five or six days, call 8-1-1, your family doctor or an Urgent and Primary Care Centre (UPCC), so they can determine if you need to be assessed again.

B.C. shifts to weekly COVID-19 data reporting

As British Columbia continues to take the next step in its COVID-19 response, the Province is transitioning from daily to weekly COVID-19 reporting.

Beginning on Thursday, April 7, 2022, COVID-19 dashboards and reports issued by the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control will be updated on weekly basis here:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data>

Data will be updated Thursday afternoons and will provide information from the past full week, from the previous Sunday to Saturday. The first reports and updates will include data up to the week of March 27 to April 2, 2022.

The new COVID-19 reporting approach aligns with a shift away from a “case-management” model to a “surveillance” approach that focuses on identifying meaningful changes in COVID-19 trends over time across different regions of the province. It is similar to how government monitors for other serious respiratory illnesses through FluWatch. [Read more.](#)

COVID-19 vaccination campaign updates

B.C. has one of the highest vaccinated populations in the world, and demand for vaccine appointments at community clinics has declined. Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) is now focusing on the delivery of pediatric vaccines to children aged five to 11, and working in partnership with pharmacies to ensure ongoing access to COVID-19 vaccines for everyone who is eligible.

To book a vaccine appointment, [register on the provincial system](#) or call 1-833-838-2323. [Service BC locations](#) can also help you register for a vaccine. Access a full list of VCH vaccination clinics, including pop-up clinics, by visiting <http://www.vch.ca/vaccine>. And get your BC Vaccine Card at gov.bc.ca/vaccinecard, by calling 1-833-838-2323 or from a Service B.C. Centre.

COVID-19 vaccination information and resources, including guidance on how to prepare children for vaccination, can be found on [the BCCDC website](#) and more information on VCH supports for children can be found [here](#). This information is also available in Chinese [Simplified](#) and [Traditional](#) | [Punjabi](#) | [Vietnamese](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Farsi](#) | [Arabic](#)

COVID-19 vaccine update

The Ministry of Health is [moving](#) from a daily to weekly COVID-19 reporting schedule. Moving forward, the updates provided in this section will reflect these weekly figures / information.

As of Wednesday, April 6, 2022, 90.9% (4,530,329) of eligible people five and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 87.5% (4,359,332) have received their second dose.

In addition, 93.5% (4,333,488) of eligible people 12 and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, 91.1% (4,223,424) received their second dose and 57.8% (2,679,288) have received a third dose.

Also, 93.8% (4,058,313) of all eligible adults in B.C. have received their first dose, 91.5% (3,958,373) received their second dose and 59.5% (2,574,997) have received a third dose.

Ministry of Health update

The Ministry of Health is [moving](#) from a daily to weekly COVID-19 reporting schedule. Moving forward, the updates provided in this section will reflect these weekly figures / information.

In the Wednesday, April 6, 2022, [statement](#) on B.C.’s COVID-19 response, 329 COVID-positive individuals are in hospital and 37 are in intensive care.

216 new cases were reported with 31 of those in the VCH area.

Reporting on daily deaths were not provided as the province transitions to weekly COVID-19 reporting.

The total number of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in B.C. now stands at 357,974 since the start of the pandemic.

Community engagement opportunities

VCH values community input. Please consider participating in or sharing the featured community engagement opportunities below:

- [Advisor recruitment - Trauma Informed Care in the ICU](#)
Vancouver General Hospital's (VGH) Intensive Care Unit (ICU) leadership team is looking to embed the principles of Trauma Informed Care (TIC) into the ICU. The team is looking to engage one or two advisors from the community for their insights in helping guide the development of TIC related learning materials and strategy.
- [Advisor recruitment - Treatment resistant psychosis](#)
VCH's South Mental Health and Substance Use team (SMHSU) is working to improve health outcomes for persons with treatment resistant psychosis, including through optimizing medication. The SMHSU team is looking to engage persons with lived experience of treatment resistant psychosis and/or their family members to review their research priorities, develop research plans, and evaluate outcomes.
- [Interviews – Improving access to osteoporosis care](#)
St. Paul's Hospital is working to improve access to osteoporosis care after a person experiences a fragility fracture. You may have experienced a fragility fracture if you fell from standing height and/or with minimal trauma, leading to fracture. We are looking to interview those who have experienced hip, back, leg or arm fragility fractures and had received care at St. Paul's Hospital for the fracture.

Other resources

Find the Provincial Health Officer's orders [here](#).

To see a map of **COVID-19 cases by local health area**, visit [here](#).

For the **latest medical updates**, including case counts, prevention, risks and testing, visit: <http://www.bccdc.ca/>

For **community engagement opportunities** at VCH, see: <https://engage.vch.ca/>

Thank you

We appreciate the time you spend reading these updates and hope you find the information and resources useful. If you no longer wish to receive the VCH Community Partner Update, please reply or send an email to ce@vch.ca with the word "unsubscribe". Thank you.

Land Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge that our places of work and the Vancouver Coastal Health facilities lie on the traditional homelands of the First Nation Communities of the Heiltsuk, Kitasoo-Xai'xais, Lil'wat, x^wməθk^wəy̓əm, N'Quatqua, Nuxalk, Samahquam, shíshálh, Skatin, Squamish, Tla'amin, Tseil-Waututh, Ulkatcho, Wuikinuxv, and Xa'xtsa.